

LETTER

FROM

WILLIAM BRENT AND OTHERS,

*Offering a House on Capitol Hill for the Patent Office, &c.*

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JUNE 27, 1836.

Read, and ordered to be printed.

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WASHINGTON, June 25, 1836.

SIR: Having observed within a few days past that the subject of a building for the Patent Office was under the consideration of the Senate, and that the building on Capitol Hill, erected for the accommodation of Congress, called the "Brick Capitol," had been suggested for that purpose, we again, in behalf of the owners of that property, offer it to Congress.

We would respectfully refer the Senate to the message of the President of the United States, and the report of the Secretary of State, recommending the purchase of this property, which we enclose.

It has been ascertained by actual measurement that the *main building* now offered, and which was heretofore occupied by the Senate and House of Representatives, is capable of affording, by the introduction of a third floor, for which it was originally designed, double the room now possessed by the Patent Office for the *exhibition* of models, without the adjoining house, which is 40 feet square, and three stories high. The walls of the building are 18 inches thick, and would well admit of any interior alterations which might be required to accommodate the Patent Office.

The ground now offered fronts 171 feet on the Capitol square, and 192 feet on A street; but, as it has been suggested that this would be too small for the ultimate wants of the office, we have made inquiry, and find that the five adjoining lots can be had at a moderate price—so that the Government can possess the entire front of the square next to the Capitol, being 285 feet, and extending eastward on A street, and East Capitol street 192 feet, with the buildings upon it, for a sum not exceeding \$23,000.

We take the liberty to ask that you will be pleased to present this communication to the honorable body over which you preside.

We have the honor to be, with great respect,

Sir, your obedient servants,

WM. BRENT,  
GRIFFITH COOMBE,  
JOHN P. INGLE,

} *On behalf of the  
proprietors.*

To the HON. MARTIN VAN BUREN,  
*President of the Senate.*

WASHINGTON, April 4, 1832.

I submit, herewith, to the consideration of Congress, a report from the Secretary of State, showing the necessity of providing additional accommodations for the Patent Office, and proposing the purchase of a suitable building, which has been offered to the Government for this purpose.

ANDREW JACKSON.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Washington, April 3, 1832.

SIR: By the annexed correspondence, it will appear that additional accommodations will be requisite for the Patent Office, which is at present located in the building appropriated to the General Post Office; and, by the letter from Mr. Brent, it appears that a favorable opportunity occurs of purchasing a building, every way suited for the establishment, at a moderate rate. I therefore respectfully suggest the propriety of submitting the case for the consideration of Congress.

Very respectfully,

EDW. LIVINGSTON.

To the PRESIDENT of the United States.

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PATENT OFFICE, March 12, 1832.

SIR: To accommodate the recording clerks in this office, I find to be very embarrassing; and to suffer the work to be performed elsewhere is a measure to which I cannot consent, and be responsible for its execution, or the safety of the papers. Perhaps the General Post Office could spare part of the room it now occupies; if not, the Patent Office cannot be long accommodated in the same building, for its business, and the room it unavoidably requires, increase in a greater ratio than the population of the country.

With great respect, yours truly,

JOHN D. CRAIG.

Hon. EDWARD LIVINGSTON,

Secretary of State.

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Mr. Barry to Mr. Livingston.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,

March 20, 1832.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, inquiring whether any of the room now used for conducting the business of this office can be allotted to the Patent Office.

In consequence of the rapid increase of the business of this Department, it would be very inconvenient to make such a disposition of any

part of it, especially as the time is not far distant when additional room will be necessary for the accommodation of this office.

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. T. BARRY.

HON. EDWARD LIVINGSTON,

*Secretary of State.*

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*Mr. Brent to Mr. Livingston.*

WASHINGTON, March 5, 1832.

SIR: Understanding that it is probable a building may be shortly wanted for the Patent Office, I take the liberty, on the behalf of the proprietors of the brick Capitol on the Capitol Hill, to offer to sell to the Government that building and the lots appurtenant to it, five in number, for the sum of \$18,000, which is less, by upwards of \$12,000, than its original cost. This building is peculiarly well calculated, from the size and capaciousness of some of its rooms, and the number which it contains, for the accommodation of that office, in reference to the convenient disposition and display of its numerous models, and the transaction of its business. A part of it is now occupied by the Board of Commissioners under the Danish convention, which, with any other commission that may hereafter be established by the Government, may be still conveniently accommodated in it in addition to the Patent Office.

I have the honor to be, &c.

WM. BRENT.

